



Policy on Sharing of Model Organisms

March 2013

On May 7, 2004, NIH implemented a policy on "Sharing of Model Organisms for Biomedical Research." This policy requires investigators to include a plan for organism sharing as a component of certain grant applications.

Who needs to write a plan?

All NIH R, P, K, STTR, or SBIR applications that plan to produce new, genetically modified variants of model organisms and related resources are expected to include a sharing plan.

What should the plan cover?

The plan should describe how the investigator will share those organisms in a timely manner with colleagues from non-profit and for-profit organizations who request them. If such sharing is restricted or not possible, the plan should state why.

What must be shared?

Depending upon accepted practice, new, genetically modified organisms may be shared as mature organisms, sperm, eggs, embryos, or, in some cases, vectors used to generate transgenic or knockout organisms.

How do I share?

Organisms can be shared either by distributing them from your own lab, or depositing the organism in a repository such as Jackson Labs or ATCC. *Note that you may request funding in the grant to support anticipated sharing expenses.*

How will this affect my grant review?

The adequacy of plans for sharing model organisms will be considered by reviewers when a competing application is evaluated. Reviewers will be asked to describe their assessment of the sharing plan in an administrative note and, except for some special initiatives, will not include their assessment in the overall priority score.

Where can I obtain additional information?

- [NIH Model Organism Sharing Policy](#)
- [NIH Policy on Sharing of Model Organisms for Biomedical Research](#)
- [NIH Policy on Sharing of Model Organisms for Biomedical Research Web Site](#)

Sample Plan:

"As for our plan to share materials and our management of intellectual property, we will adhere to the NIH Grant Policy on Sharing of Unique Research Resources including the [Principles and Guidelines for Recipients of NIH Research Grants and Contracts on Obtaining and Disseminating Biomedical Research Resources](#) issued December 23, 1999. All 'model organisms' generated by this project will be distributed widely or deposited into a repository/stock center making them available to the broader research community, either before or immediately after publication, in accordance with MSKCC policies. If we assume responsibility for distributing the newly generated model organisms, we will fill requests in a timely fashion. In addition, we will provide relevant protocols and published genetic and phenotypic data upon request. Material transfers will be made with no more restrictive terms than in the Simple Letter Agreement (SLA) or the Uniform Biological Materials Transfer Agreement (UBMTA) and without reach through requirements. Should any intellectual property arise which requires a patent, we will ensure that the technology (materials and data) remains widely available to the research community in accordance with MSKCC policies and the NIH Principles and Guidelines document."

Optional insert, if applicable:

Our lab has demonstrated its commitment to sharing by providing _____ over the past _____ years. The PI needs to fill in the blanks.